denly arose which overthrew both the Chin and the Sung and set up what for a brief century or more was the most extensive empire yet created by man.

The authors of this new realm were the Mongols. The Mongols were related linguistically, and possibly racially, to the Turkish and the Tungusic peoples of whom we have seen so much in the preceding pages. At the beginning of the twelfth century most of them were living, divided into many tribes, to the south and east of Lake Baikal, on the borders of what are now Outer Mongolia, Siberia, and Manchuria. Originally of little consequence politically, they were welded into a formidable fighting force by Temuchin. Temuchin was born about 1155 or 1156, the son of a chief of a kind of confederation of some of the Mongol tribes. After his father's death, Temuchin had to fight his way to the headship of the confederation. This he did with ruthlessness and success. It was a rude age and region in which he lived and he who would survive in the struggle for existence must act vigorously and without too many scruples.

Under Temuchin's skillful and vigorous leadership, the confederation was extended to include more of the Mongol tribes. In his late forties, Temuchin felt himself strong enough to attack his overlords, the Keraits, a Turkish people who had recently become Nestorian Christians and the outstanding power in Mongolia. The head of the Kera'its, it is interesting to note, was possibly the original of the Prester John who so appealed to the Imagination of many Europeans of the Middle Ages. The conquest of the Naiman, in what at present is the northeastern part of Mongolia, followed the defeat of the Keraits.

Temuchin was now master of Mongolia and in 1206 was greeted by his people as Jenghiz Khan, the "Universal Emperor" of the Turco-Mongol peoples. He had, of course, to face some trouble from unsubmissive princes, but this he succeeded in suppressing. The capital of the new empire was at Karakorurn, in the general region of the modern Urga. Jenghiz Khan's domains were soon augmented by the voluntary recognition of his suzerainty by the Uighurs and by the Karluks, both in what is now the New Dominion.

Having brought together the peoples of Mongolia and, in part, of the New Dominion, Jenghiz Khan now did as so many of the rulers of the preceding great, ephemeral empires of that region